

APPENDIX A

NEW HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COURT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCILS

In 1994, the District Court embarked on a process to standardize the procedures for processing domestic violence cases. In conjunction with that process, the District Court engaged in efforts to encourage the formation of local committees with representation from the defense and prosecution bar, law enforcement, the advocacy community, schools and other community representatives. The goals of these local coordinating councils were to:

- (A) educate communities about all aspects of the justice system as it relates to domestic violence matters;
- (B) create a forum for the free flow of information concerning the process with which these cases are handled, including an opportunity to critically review how each of the “contact points” of the system are performing their function; and
- (C) engage the community in discussion of the need for continued information and education about domestic violence at local level,

Thirty-two domestic violence coordinating councils were originally formed. In the years since their formation, many of the councils have focused on the need for community education, systems coordination, and education for children. In 1997, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges recognized the project as a model for coordinating councils programs across the country. Additional information on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Project can be obtained through the Coordinator of the District Court Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Project located at the Administrative Office of the District Court.

APPENDIX B

SUPPORT ADVOCATES IN THE COURTROOM

The New Hampshire District Court has long recognized the vital role support advocates serve in domestic violence cases. The following information about advocates will help judges and staff understand the service they provide.

I. ROLE OF ADVOCATES UNDER 173-B

RSA 173-C:1, III defines a crisis center domestic violence counselor/advocate as a person who is affiliated with a direct service domestic violence service program, as defined in RSA 173-C:1, II and who has satisfactorily completed 30 hours of training. Thus, each crisis center advocate appearing in a domestic violence case has been trained in many areas concerning domestic violence, including the law and court procedures.

The role of the crisis center advocate is to:

1. Accompany the victim in court proceedings, in the courtroom and/or chambers;
2. Empower the victim by offering support, provide information and present options;
3. Assist in safety planning; and
4. Identify service needs.

II. TYPES OF ADVOCATES

A. Crisis Center Advocates

Crisis center advocates provide information and emotional support to victims of domestic violence in criminal and civil court proceedings. Advocates are available to assist plaintiffs in all aspects of protective orders, including the various relief, protection and enforcement options available.

RSA 173-C provides a privilege for all communications transmitted between a victim of alleged domestic abuse and sexual assault and the domestic violence or sexual assault counselor/advocate in the course of that relationship. The communication must have been transmitted in confidence by means, which, so far as the victim is aware, does not disclose the information to a third person. The waiver of this privilege belongs to the victim and may be asserted in all civil, administrative and criminal legal proceedings.

NOTE: During criminal and civil proceedings, questions from the court should be directed to the victim. (Crisis center advocates cannot discuss any information in reference to the plaintiff's case without specific written permission by the plaintiff, pursuant to RSA 173-C.)

B. Prosecution-Based Advocates

Prosecution-based advocates provide information and support to crime victims and witnesses during the investigation, prosecution and sentencing phases of the justice system. These advocates can be based at the city, county and law enforcement level.

The role of the prosecution-based advocate is:

1. To provide information to victims and witnesses about all aspects of criminal proceedings;
2. To ensure victims' rights (RSA 21-M:8-k) during proceedings; and
3. Refer victims to crisis centers for safety planning, shelter, support groups, etc.

Comment: Communications between prosecution-based advocates and victims are not privileged under RSA 173-C. Prosecution advocates refer victims to crisis centers for ongoing support and services.

Comment: The AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program (AVAP) places advocates with crisis centers and police and city prosecutors to enhance services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. The advocates' role is based on their placement.

APPENDIX C

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 353

Concord, NH 03302-0353

3574

(603) 224-8893 (Office)

5570

Web Site: www.nheadsv.org

Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (toll-free): **1-866-644-**

Statewide Sexual Assault Hotline: **1-800-277-**

The NH Coalition is comprised of 14 programs throughout the state that provide services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. The services are free, confidential, and available to everyone regardless of age, race, religion, sexual preference, class, or physical ability. The services include:

- 24-hour crisis line
- Emergency shelter and transportation
- Legal advocacy in obtaining restraining orders against abusers
- Hospital and court accompaniment
- Information about and help in obtaining public assistance

RESPONSE to Sexual & Domestic Violence

c/o Coos County Family Health Service

54 Willow Street

Berlin, NH 03570

1-800-852-3388 (crisis line)

752-5679 (Berlin office)

237-8746 (Colebrook office)

788-2562 (Lancaster office)

Women's Supportive Services

11 School Street

Claremont, NH 03743

1-800-639-3130 (crisis line)

543-0155 (Claremont office)

863-4053 (Newport office)

Rape and Domestic Violence Crisis Center

P. O. Box 1344

Concord, NH 03302-1344

1-800-852-3388 (crisis line)

225-7376 (office)

Starting Point: Services for Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 1972

Conway, NH 03818

1-800-336-3795 (crisis line)

356-7993 (Conway office)

539-5506 (Ossipee office)

Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP)

University of New Hampshire

Huddleston Hall, Room 202

Durham, NH 03824

862-3494 (crisis line & office)

Women's Crisis Services of the Monadnock Region

12 Court Street

Keene, NH 03431-3402

352-3782 (crisis line)

352-3844 (Keene office)

532-6800 (Jaffrey office)

New Beginnings**A Women's Crisis Center**

P.O. Box 622

Laconia, NH 03246

1-800-852-3388 (crisis line)

528-6511 (office)

**Women's Information Serv.
(WISE)**

79 Hanover Street, Suite 1

Lebanon, NH 03766

448-5525 (crisis line)

448-5922 (office)

The Support Center at Burch House

P. O. Box 965

Littleton, NH 03561

1-800-774-0544 (crisis line)

444-0624 (Littleton office)

747-2441 (Woodsville office)

YWCA Crisis Service

72 Concord Street

Manchester, NH 03101

668-2299 (crisis line)

625-5785 (Manchester office)

432-2687 (Derry office)

Rape and Assault Support Services

P.O. Box 217

Nashua, NH 03061-0217

883-3044 (crisis line)

889-0858 (Nashua office)

672-9833 (Milford office)

Voices Against Violence

*(Formerly: Task Force Against Domestic
and Sexual Violence)*

P.O. Box 53

Plymouth, NH 03264

536-1659 (crisis line)

536-3423 (office)

A Safe Place

P. O. Box 674

Portsmouth, NH 03802

1-800-852-3388 (crisis line)

436-7924 (Portsmouth office)

330-0214 (Rochester office)

890-6392 (Salem office)

Sexual Assault Support Services

7 Junkins Avenue

Portsmouth, NH 03801

1-888-747-7070 (crisis-toll free)

436-4107 (Portsmouth office)

332-0775 (Rochester office)

APPENDIX D

Batterers Intervention: A Guide for Judges

The New Hampshire Domestic Violence Statute RSA 173-B gives the court the authority to recommend rehabilitative services for those persons who have been found to have committed "abuse" within the meaning of the statute. RSA 173-B provides that the court may recommend batterers intervention programs or personal counseling and further specifies that when possible the court should use intervention and counseling programs that provide alternatives to aggression. The purposes of this article are to provide information to judges and other stakeholders about the evolution in available programs and to provide a framework for selecting a program appropriate for domestic violence perpetrators. This article also will describe the basic principles of batterers intervention, and situations in which referrals to batterers intervention are inappropriate.

The evolution of rehabilitation models for domestic violence perpetrators

Services for domestic violence perpetrators began in the late 1970s in response to the observation by counselors, police officers, and judges that some family members (usually men) became violent when angry. This observation led to the assumption that anger was causing the violence. Consequently, in an attempt to bring the violence to an end, batterers were referred to anger management programs. As a result, a few of the men who previously had been violent, reduced their level and frequency of violence subsequent to receiving anger management counseling. But many did not.

The ineffectiveness of anger management counseling with these domestic violence perpetrators raised several questions about the appropriateness of that approach. (1) If anger causes violence, why are many angry people not violent? (2) Why are many people not angry when violent? (3) Why do many people who are both angry and violent continue to be violent even after receiving anger management counseling? (4) And perhaps most importantly, how can people (supposedly unable to control their anger) be so selective in their use of violence (i.e., choosing whom, where, when, and to what extent to hit)? The inability of the anger management model to answer these questions is connected to several faulty assumptions about batterers, including the following:

Lack of skills. The anger management model failed to explain why batterers appear unable to manage their anger at their partners (someone who is less powerful than they are) but have much less difficulty managing their anger at their boss, a police officer, or the judge (people who are more powerful than they are). In reality, batterers do a cost-benefit analysis regarding their violence and abuse demonstrating that they already have adequate anger management skills and that they choose when and how to use them.

Provocative partner. The anger management model implied that the victim has done something

to provoke her partner's violence. Further, since she seems to have "asked for it," she needs to change her behavior to prevent further abuse. In reality, no victim can provoke the batterer to be violent without his permission. In support of this, Jacobson and Gottman, prominent domestic violence researchers, found that "men initiate violence independently of what their wives do or say."¹

Loss of control. The anger management model suggested that batterers lose control during a violent episode. In reality, the opposite is true. To be violent, a batterer must exert control, not lose control. Without being in control of his own actions, he could not direct his body to be violent. Therefore, the loss of control a batterer experiences is not over his actions, but those of his partner. In response to this loss of control over her, he attempts to regain control through the deliberate use of physical violence and other forms of abuse. While the abuse may appear to be either a one-time-event or a series of isolated angry outbursts, these are rarely the case. Most often, domestic violence is a systematic pattern of coercive and controlling behavior with physical violence occurring infrequently.

Individual pathology. The anger management model, by pathologizing batterers, implied that battering is an individual problem requiring only an individual solution. It ignores the larger social context and cultural attitudes (e.g., oppression through sexism, classism and racism) that condone the use of violence as a tactic of control. Batterers hit their partners, not because they have an anger management problem, but because they feel entitled to use violence as a way of getting their needs met.

Principles of batterers intervention

In response to the shortcomings of employing the anger management model for batterer rehabilitation, there has been an international movement to develop standards for batterers intervention programs. For the last several years, the New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence has been developing guidelines for batterers intervention programs. As a result of this work, The Commission published Standards of Practice for batterers intervention programs. By using the guidelines, batterers intervention providers attempt to avoid the shortcomings of anger management and other mental health approaches by following several principles of practice. For example, providers of batterers intervention services:

Do offer educational services that focus on the nature and types of abuse that comprise domestic violence. In addition, they address issues related to the batterer's systematic attempts to control his intimate partner. Examples of these issues are: male entitlement, misogyny, jealousy and possessiveness, developing equal relationships with women, responsible parenting, giving up the need to control others, honesty and accountability.

¹¹ Jacobson, N. & Gottman, J. (1998)/ *When men batter women: New insights into ending abusive relationships* (p. 46). Simon & Shuster, NY, NY.

Do understand that batterers intervention alone will not end battering. They understand that batterers often attend counseling as a way of luring the victim back home or of persuading her to drop a restraining order. Therefore, providers work in collaboration with the courts, victim services, law enforcement, probation/parole and others to send a unified message to batterers that domestic violence will no longer be tolerated in their community.

Do not view anger, alcohol or other drug abuse, stress, mental illness, or communication problems as the cause of the violence.

Do not offer couples counseling, family therapy, or mediation as a vehicle for ending the abuse, since such modalities wrongly suggest that the victim is capable of, and partly responsible for, ending the batterer's violence.

When is batterers intervention inappropriate?

Not all men who are violent in the home may be appropriate for a batterers intervention program. A violent offender may not be appropriate for a batterers intervention program if that offender is:

Generally assaultive. The defendant's violence is not limited to intimate relationships. The main issues addressed in a batterers intervention program are different from those addressed in a program dealing with violence against strangers (e.g., road rage, resisting arrest, bar fights). In those cases, a referral should be made to a program that addresses stranger violence.

Withdrawing from alcohol or other drugs. The defendant is in need of detoxification due to drug dependence. The defendant should be referred to an alcohol and other drug treatment facility until stabilized. Prior to stabilization, he may be unable to participate meaningfully in a batterers intervention program. Once stabilized, the defendant should receive batterers intervention and drug treatment either concurrently or in an integrated program. Alcohol or other drug treatment alone, however, is not an adequate alternative to batterers intervention.

Psychotic. The defendant is actively psychotic and in need of stabilization (e.g., with medication) prior to being able to participate meaningfully in a program. Once stabilized, the defendant should attend a batterers intervention program while continuing to receive any needed mental health treatment. Similarly to drug treatment, mental health treatment is not an adequate alternative to batterers intervention.

Cognitively impaired. The defendant has cognitive impairments, language difficulties, or other conditions that would prevent him from benefiting from the educational services offered in a batterers intervention program. In these cases, however, every effort should be made to locate a batterers intervention provider who is able and willing to modify his or her services to accommodate the defendant's situation.

For additional information: Copies of the guidelines can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Administrative Judge of the District Court.

Scott Hampton, Psy.D.

Director, Ending The Violence

Endingtheviolence.org

New Hampshire Governor's Commission On Domestic and Sexual Violence

Batterers Intervention Committee-Chair

APPENDIX E

PERSONALIZED SAFETY PLAN

The following steps represent my plan for increasing my safety and preparing in advance for the possibility for further violence. Although I do not have control over my partner's violence, I do have a choice about how to respond to him / her and how to best get myself and my children to safety.

Step 1: ***Suggestions for increasing safety while remaining in the relationship or preparing to leave.***

If you are planning to stay in a relationship which may turn violent, consider the following strategies to remain physically safe during a violent incident. Leaving an abusive relationship can be potentially dangerous, since many batterers strike back when they believe that a battered woman is leaving a relationship, so consider these suggestions to make leaving safer for you.

1. If I decide to leave, I will _____
- ▶ Practice how to leave safely
 - ▶ What doors, windows, elevators, stairwells, or fire escapes would you use?

I will go to _____

- ▶ Where will you go when you decide to leave?
- ▶ Will you go to a friend, relative, shelter?

2. I can keep my purse and car keys ready and put them (place) _____ in order to leave quickly. If I do not have a car, I can call _____ or _____ (taxi cab or friend) and they will pick me up quickly. I can also leave an extra set of keys and money with _____ so that I am able to leave quickly.

3. I will have important phone numbers available to my children and myself:
- ▶ Police _____
 - ▶ Domestic Violence Hotline _____
 - ▶ Friends _____

I will teach the children where these numbers are located and when they should use them.

4. I can tell _____ and _____ about the violence and ask them to call the police if they hear suspicious noises coming from my home.

5. I use _____ as my code word with my children or my

friends so they can call for help.

6. When I expect we are going to have an argument, I will try to move to a space that is lowest risk, such as _____
Try to avoid arguments in the bathroom, garage, kitchen, near weapons, or in rooms without access to an outside door.

7. I will use my judgment and intuition. If the situation is very serious, I can give my partner what he \ she wants to calm him \ her down. I have to protect myself until I am out of immediate danger.

8. I will do the following things to increase my independence to make it easier to leave:

Items for a checklist

- ▶ Identification
- ▶ Birth certificates for my children and me.
- ▶ Social Security cards
- ▶ School and medical records
- ▶ Money, bankbooks, checkbooks, credit cards, ATM card
- ▶ Keys to my house, car, and office
- ▶ Driver's license and registration
- ▶ Medications
- ▶ School and vaccination records
- ▶ Change of clothes
- ▶ Welfare identification (Medicaid cards)
- ▶ Passport(s), Green card(s), work permits
- ▶ Divorce papers
- ▶ Lease \ rental agreement, house deed
- ▶ Mortgage payment book, current unpaid bills
- ▶ Insurance papers
- ▶ Address book
- ▶ Pictures, jewelry, items of sentimental value
- ▶ Children's favorite toys and \ or blankets

Step 2: *Suggestions for increasing my safety when the relationship is over.* Even though the relationship is over, violence still may be a problem and I can take the following precautions to ensure that my children I and stay safe.

1. I can:
 - change the locks;
 - install steel \ metal doors; a security system; smoke detectors, outside lighting

system.

2. I will inform _____ and _____
_____ that my partner no longer lives with me and ask them to call the police if he \ she is observed near my home or my children.
3. I will tell people who take care of my children that _____
and _____ are the only people who have permission to pick up my children.
4. I can tell _____ at work about my situation and ask _____ to screen my calls.
5. I can avoid stores, banks, and _____ that I frequented when living with my abusive partner.
6. I can obtain a protective order from _____.
7. I feel down and ready to return to a potentially abusive situation. I can call _____
_____ for support or attend workshops and support groups to gain support and to strengthen my relationships with other people.

APPENDIX F

Recent Domestic Violence Caselaw Summaries

- 1) Mary Seufert v. Christopher Seufert, 141 N.H. 766 (1997).
- 2) State of New Hampshire v. Robert Dumont, 145 N.H. 240 (2000).
- 3) Beth Fitchner v. Gordon Pittsley, Jr., 146 N.H. 512 (2001).
- 4) The Matter of Maureen Morrill v. Bruce Morrill, 147 N.H. ____ (Decided October 29, 2001).
- 5) State of New Hampshire v. Frederick Fuller, ____ N.H. ____ (Decided November 20, 2001).
- 6) Diane Fillmore v. Franklin B. Fillmore, Jr., ____ N.H. ____ (Decided December 11, 2001).
- 7) In The Matter of Karen Alexander and Jonathan Evans, ____ N.H. ____ (Decided February 11, 2002).

Abuse of Plaintiff's Child does Not Constitute Abuse against Plaintiff in a Domestic Violence Case

Mary Seufert v. Christopher Seufert, 141 N.H. 766 (1997).

A finding that the defendant struck plaintiff's son does not by itself constitute domestic abuse because the plaintiff's son is specifically excluded from the class protected by statute under RSA 173-B:1 (II). Defendant's conduct against the plaintiff's son, however, may be actionable under another statute. The Supreme Court was careful to clarify that, while not supported by the facts of this case, abuse of a child could serve as a basis for a viable domestic violence petition if the abuse of the child placed the petitioner in "fear of imminent bodily injury."

Good Conduct Probation Violation- Reliance on Finding of Abuse under RSA 173-B

State of New Hampshire v. Robert Dumont, 145 N.H. 240 (2000).

A finding of abuse in a domestic violence restraining order is not in itself sufficient evidence to hold that a defendant violated a probation requirement of good conduct. The standard of proof for a finding of abuse to issue a domestic violence protective order pursuant to RSA 173-B is the preponderance of the evidence since the proceeding to obtain a restraining order is civil in nature. The Supreme Court held that in the absence of a criminal conviction, a court weighing evidence of a probation violation must make an independent determination that the defendant engaged in the underlying conduct that gave rise to the domestic violence protective order issued against him.

Prohibition Against Modifying Existing Child Custody Orders under RSA 173-B

Beth Fitchner v. Gordon Pittsley, Jr., 146 N.H. 512 (2001).

A temporary domestic violence order issued pursuant to RSA 173-B by the district court pertaining to child custody or support cannot supersede or affect an existing child custody order issued pursuant to RSA 458 by the superior court. Citing RSA 13-B:5, IV which prohibits orders issued under RSA 173-B from modifying awards of custody issued pursuant to RSA 458, the Supreme Court in this case vacated the child custody portion of the district court domestic violence order because it conflicted with an existing child custody provision in the parties' divorce decree. This case suggests that when change of an existing child custody is requested in the context of a RSA 173-B domestic violence hearing, the district court should hold a hearing to make a determination regarding abuse and then transfer the case as expeditiously as necessary for the child's welfare to the superior court for determination of the child custody issue(s).

Admissibility into Evidence of Children's Testimony

In the Matter of Maureen Morrill and Bruce Morrill, 147 N.H. ____ (Decided October 29, 2001).

RSA 173-B has its own standard for the admissibility of evidence that explicitly states the court is not bound by technical rules of evidence and may admit evidence which it considers relevant and material. The Supreme Court found the trial court had not abused its discretion by excluding the parties' children's live testimony at the final hearing and relying instead on the children's lengthy written statements given to the police. Furthermore, the Supreme Court held that excluding the children's live testimony did not violate the defendant's due process rights.

Elements to Support Finding of Criminal Threatening

State of New Hampshire v. Frederick Fuller, ____ N.H. ____ (Decided November 20, 2001).

While RSA 631:4, I (d) relative to criminal threatening does not provide a definition for the phrase "purpose to terrorize", the Court held there is "universal recognition . . . that terror means more than 'alarm', 'fright', 'dread', or 'apprehension of hurt.'" The Court concluded that a trier of fact must find the defendant had a purpose to cause "extreme fear" in order to find the defendant had a purpose to terrorize. The nature of the threat must be determined by the defendant's intent not the victim's reaction, although the victim's reaction to the threat may provide circumstantial evidence relevant to determining the nature of the threat.

The Supreme Court found the definition of "purpose to terrorize" provided by the trial court through jury instructions to be inadequate. Additional challenges were made as to the sufficiency of the evidence. The Court reversed the conviction but did find, based on the record in the case, that a reasonable jury (properly instructed) could have concluded that the defendant threatened the victim with the purpose to terrorize him.

Necessary Elements to issue a Protective Order

Diane Fillmore v. Franklin Fillmore, Jr., ____ N.H. ____ (Decided December 11, 2001).

For the court to issue a temporary protective order, the petitioner must demonstrate “immediate and present danger of abuse”. The Supreme Court held the petition in this case did not support such a finding. Notable to the Court was the lack of a history of violence between the parties and the defendant having been in Canada at the time the petition was filed. The Supreme Court further held that the statute requires the court to make a finding of criminal conduct in order to issue a final restraining order. The Supreme Court vacated the protective order because the district court had not made a specific finding that the defendant had engaged in conduct that was criminal in nature, nor was there sufficient evidence to do so. The Supreme Court concluded the two incidents of physical contact that had occurred eight and eleven years prior were too distant in time and the threat to “make [her] life a living hell” was not specific enough to rise to the level of criminal threatening or harassment.

Necessary Elements For a Final Protective Order

In the Matter of Karen Alexander and Jonathan Evans, ____ N.H. ____ (Decided February 11, 2002).

Facts sufficient to support a finding of harassment under RSA 644:4, I(f) were not sufficient to support a finding that the “harassment” posed a “credible threat” to the plaintiff’s safety under RSA 173-B. To justify the issuance of a final restraining order under 173-B the evidence must support a finding that the alleged conduct constitutes a threat to the petitioner’s safety.

APPENDIX G

The Greenbook Project

The NH District Court and Family Division in Grafton County are primary partners in The Greenbook Project, a federally funded initiative designed to bring together systems to better address the needs of families when there is the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. Greenbook is the nickname for the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges' publication, *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice*. Greenbook gets its name from the cover of the publication, which is green.

Grafton County was one of six demonstration sites chosen to participate in The Greenbook Project and has the distinction of being the only rural site and only site east of the Mississippi River. The three to five year Project is a joint effort among Grafton County District and Family Courts, the Division of Children, Youth and Families, the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the four domestic and sexual violence crisis centers that serve Grafton County.

There are close to 60 participants involved in the Project, including representatives from the primary partners, CASA, law enforcement, probation and parole, social service agencies and survivors of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

The Project includes a research and evaluation component at the local and national level. Locally, the research team is tracking progress toward the goals set by participants. On the national level, an evaluation team is assessing progress on issues common to all six demonstration sites.

For more information on The Greenbook Project, contact Executive Director Gina Apicelli at (603) 536-7599 or nhgreenbook@cyberportal.net.

The New Hampshire Court Improvement Project Focuses on Permanency for Abused and Neglected Children

To ensure that abused and neglected children in New Hampshire move through the court process more quickly and achieve permanency sooner, the Administrative Office of the Courts received a federal grant in 1995 to establish the New Hampshire Court Improvement Project. The project funded through 2006, is under the supervision of Judge Edwin Kelly and the New Hampshire District Court.

In September 2000, the Court Improvement Project introduced *The Draft Protocols Relative to Abuse and Neglect Cases and Permanency Planning*, which provided an overview for system participants of all court hearings. The *Draft Protocols* were the result of a significant collaboration among the District Court, Family Division, Probate Court and Superior Court, as well as representatives from the Bar, Legislature, CASA, The Division for Children, Youth and

Families, law enforcement and the Attorney General's Office. Foster parents and services providers also contributed to this endeavor, which seeks to increase judicial oversight of these most important cases.

For more information about the Court Improvement Project, Kristin Lamont, the Permanency Planning Coordinator, may be contacted in Judge Kelly's office at (603) 271-6418.